HB 548 – RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, and I am presenting the University's testimony on HB 548.

This Bill establishes a Board of Governors for the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo and a special fund to receive all revenues to the College. It assigns to Board of Governors an advisory role as well as the power and duties of managing expenditures of the College, among other duties. This would appear to replace functions currently exercised by the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai‘i, the Chancellor of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, the Dean of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, and the College's existing advisory group.

Considering the recent review of special and revolving funds administered by the University of Hawai‘i by the State Auditor, the University is conservative in its support of establishing new special funds - especially, to ensure the requirements of Chapter 37-52.3(4), HRS, which requires special funds to demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Furthermore, the University believes that the objective of the special fund - to ensure financial sustainability and success of the college of pharmacy - can already be accomplished through the College's current funding and management structure.

For the reasons above, the University of Hawai‘i requests that the House Committee on Higher Education defer further action on this measure.